

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. Appln. No. 09/286,418

Claims 1, 3, 9, 10, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Agarwal et al. (USP 4,527,653). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. Regarding independent claim 1, Agarwal et al. fail to teach or suggest a means of compensating for the static friction of the steering system based on an estimated value of this static friction. Instead, Agarwal et al. teach a system for compensating for road load, as noted in column 1, lines 17-22.

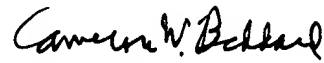
Additionally, enclosed for the Examiner's consideration is a copy of a letter from Applicant's Japanese attorneys explaining in more detail distinctions between Applicant's invention and Agarwal et al.

Claims 2-20 are believed to be in form for allowance, at least because of their dependence from independent claim 1, which has been shown to be allowable.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 2, 2000